

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are pending in this application. Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 1-19 and 21-35 are allowed.

By this Amendment, claim 20 is amended to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, page 13, lines 7-13; page 19, lines 3-14; and page 20, lines 6-11. Claim 20 is also amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 23.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank Examiner Tran for the courtesy extended to Applicants' representative, Mr. Luo, during the June 8, 2007 telephone interview. The substance of the telephone interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §101 and §112, first paragraph. Claim 20 is amended so as to establish utility, as discussed during the telephone interview. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §101 and §112, first paragraph, is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,449,054 to Cox et al. ("Cox"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 20 is amended to recite additional features, as outlined above. In particular, claim 20 is amended to recite "a refusing unit that, when the network printer is already a member of a multicast address, refuses a command from a printing control device for joining another multicast address." Cox does not disclose or suggest these features, as recited in claim 20.

In particular, Cox discloses a device that dynamically reassigns the group membership of a receiving device 106. See Fig. 4C in col. 4, lines 28-37. Cox does not disclose or suggest a refusing unit that, when a device 106 is already a member of a group, refuses to change this device's membership. Thus, Cox does not disclose "a refusing unit that, when the

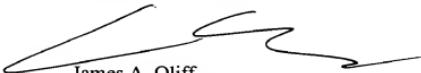
network printer is already a member of a multicast address, refuses a command from a printing control device for joining another multicast address," as recited in claim 20.

For at least the above reasons, as discussed during the telephone interview, Cox does not disclose each and every element recited in claim 20. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-35 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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